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NOTES ON GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

Distribution extension of *Drymoluber brazili* (Gomes, 1918) (Serpentes: Colubridae) for the state of Piauí, Brazil

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ABSTRACT: An adult female specimen of *Drymoluber brazili* (Gomes, 1918) was found dead on road BR 135, one kilometer south of the city of São Gonçalo do Gurguéia, Piauí, Brazil. This is the second record of this species for the state of Piauí extending the species range 50 km south, 305 km west and 510 km north.

The genus *Drymoluber* is widely distributed throughout South America and comprises three species: *D. dichrous* (Peters, 1863); *D. brazili* (Gomes, 1918) and *D. apurimacensis* (Lehr *et al*. 2004). *Drymoluber brazili* is distributed throughout a large portion of the Brazilian territory, namely open Cerrado areas in the states of São Paulo, Mato Grosso do Sul, Mato Grosso, Goiás, Brasília, Rondônia, Minas Gerais, Bahia, Piauí, Paraíba and Ceará (Nogueira 2001; Argôlo 2004; Lehr *et al*. 2004; França *et al.* 2006; Silva *et al*. 2007; Moreira *et al.* 2009; Valdujo *et al.* 2009). Although *D. brazili* is widely distributed across Brazil, this species is not well represented in zoological collections. There are only 33 specimens deposited in the collections of the Museum of Zoology of the University of São Paulo, Butantan Institute, University of Brasília and Federal University of Piauí (Argôlo 2004; Lehr *et al*. 2004; França *et al.* 2006).

All localities records of *Drymoluber brazili* are either within the Cerrado biome or transition areas between the Cerrado and Caatinga biomes, as is the case with São Gonçalo do Gurguéia and Caracolin in the state of Piauí, (Lehr *et al*. 2004; Silva *et al*. 2007). In terms of altitude *D. brazili* has been recorded between 330 meters above sea level (masl) in Gaúcha do Norte, Mato Grosso, and 1040 masl in Pedregulho, São Paulo, with an average of 403 masl across 23 localities (Lehr *et al*. 2004).

On the 22 June 2011, while driving along the BR 135 road, an adult female specimen of *Drymoluber brazili* (Figure 1) was found dead (IN-154/2007/IBAMA art–26), probably a road kill, approximately 1 km south of the city of São Gonçalo do Gurguéia, Piauí (10°02'40" S, 45°17'28" W, 460 masl). The specimen had a total length of 80 cm and was deposited in the Museum of Zoology, Santa Cruz State University, Ilhéus, state of Bahia, Brazil (MZUESC 9508).

This is the second record of *Drymoluber brazili* for the Piauí state, accounting for an extension in geographic distribution of 510 km north of Cana Brava, Goiás, 305 km west of Santo Inácio, Bahia and 50 km south of Caracol, Piauí (Lehr *et al*. 2004; Silva *et al*. 2007). Systematic surveys should be undertaken in order to improve our understanding of the distribution of this species and other widely distributed but poorly surveyed herpetofauna (Freitas *et al.* 2011). Nonetheless, this work highlights the potential of road kills as a complementary data source to traditional surveys related to species biogeography (Case 1978; Gehrt 2002).

FIGURE 1. Adult female specimen of *Drymoluber brazili* (MZUESC 9508) found on road BR 135, 1 km south of the city of São Gonçalo do Gurguéia, state of Piauí, Brazil (Photo by Marco Antonio de Freitas).

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